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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***More than 1.2 billion in SB1 funding slated for award to Transportation projects in Southern California***

**LOS ANGELES** – More than \$1.2 billion in competitive SB 1 funds is recommended to be awarded to cities and counties in the Southern California region, providing a major boost to regional efforts to reduce congestion and support local investments in local streets and roads as well as upgrade our nation's trade corridors and freight network.

Staff from the California Transportation Commission published recommendations to allocate approximately \$1.2 billion in state funding for the six-county region represented by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The awards are part of three competitive grant programs established under Senate Bill (SB) 1. The recommendations will now be considered by the California Transportation Commission at its next meeting, on May 16 and 17 in San Diego.

"These investments will play a critical role in the implementation of SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy," said Hasan Ikhrata, Executive Director of SCAG. "I am supportive of the staff's recommendation and encourage the Commission to recognize the important role these funds will play in improving Southern California's transportation infrastructure."

Specific award amounts by SB 1 program are as follows:

### **Congested Corridors Program:**

Commission staff recommends programming about \$1 billion to nine projects throughout the state, of which three are in the SCAG region. These three projects represent a combined total of \$235 million investment in the SCAG region, or about 23% of the program's total. If approved by the Commission, SB 1 funds would flow to the Airport Metro Connector project in Los Angeles County, traffic light synchronization and bus rapid transit improvements in Orange County, and the Redlands Passenger Rail project in San Bernardino County.

The Congested Corridors Program was created by SB 1 and provides \$250 million annually to fund projects designed to reduce congestion in highly traveled and highly congested corridors

through performance improvements that balance transportation improvements, community impacts, and that provide environmental benefits.

A full listing of the Commission staff's recommendations is located here:

[http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/sccp/docs/042518\\_2018\\_SCCP\\_Staff\\_Recommnedations.pdf](http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/sccp/docs/042518_2018_SCCP_Staff_Recommnedations.pdf)

**Local Partnerships Program:**

Commission staff recommends programming \$309 million to 27 projects throughout the state, of which 12 are located in the SCAG region. These 12 projects represent a combined total of \$144 million investment in the SCAG region, or about 47% of the program's total. Programs in the SCAG region include improvements to the Route 15-Railroad Canyon Road interchange in Riverside, improvements to the Vista Canyon Metrolink Station in the city of Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County and the widening of Ranchero Road in the City of Hesperia in the County of San Bernardino, among others.

The Local Partnerships Program, created under SB 1, rewards counties, cities, districts and regional transportation agencies in which voters have approved fees or taxes solely dedicated to transportation improvements.

A full listing of the Commission staff's recommendations is located here:

[http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/lpp/docs/042518\\_2018\\_LPP-Competitive\\_Staff\\_Recommendations.pdf](http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/lpp/docs/042518_2018_LPP-Competitive_Staff_Recommendations.pdf)

**Trade Corridors Enhancement Program:**

Commission staff recommends programming \$1.39 billion to 28 projects throughout the state, of which 12 are located in the SCAG region. These 12 projects represent a combined total of \$909 million of investment in the Southern California region's trade corridors and freight network, or about 65% of the program's total.

The Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, created by SB 1 provides approximately \$300 million annually for infrastructure improvements on federally designated Trade Corridors of National and Regional Significance, on the Primary Freight Network and along other corridors that have a high volume of freight movement.

A full listing of the Commission staff's recommendations is located here:

[http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/tcep/docs/042518\\_2018\\_Trade\\_Corridor\\_Enhancement\\_Program-Staff\\_Recommendations.pdf](http://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/tcep/docs/042518_2018_Trade_Corridor_Enhancement_Program-Staff_Recommendations.pdf)

"The projects slated for awards will support economic growth, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the flow of cargo in the Southern California region," said Margaret Finlay, City Councilmember for Duarte and President of SCAG.

“Half of the state’s population resides in the Southern California region, so we are pleased that the Commission’s staff recognized that fact by awarding nearly half of the Local Partnerships Program funds to SCAG-area counties and cities,” said Finlay.

“Our region is the largest trade gateway in the nation, handling over \$3 trillion worth of goods annually and employing 2.9 million people,” said Ikhata. “We will put SB 1 funds to work by removing truck bottlenecks and implementing highway-railroad grade separations, to improve traffic congested areas and maintain our region’s competitive advantage for this important industry.” He added, “We are excited to put SB 1 dollars to work in our local communities.”

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**About SCAG:**

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).